# Series 1000 – Community Relations

## 1. Communication with the Public

## A. Media of Communication

## E. Memorials to Deceased Students and Staff

Recognizing that the loss of a member of the school community is deeply felt, the District will support staff, students and families who feel the loss, and will assist with connections to appropriate community resources. As places designated primarily to support learning, school sites should not serve as the main venue for the memorializing of students or staff.

The preferred method for permanent memorials to deceased students or staff is a living memorial, such as a tree. Specific locations for plantings shall be determined by the Superintendent or his/her designee. Living memorials may be marked with a permanent stone or plaque indicating the name and relevant information of the person to be memorialized. The specific type of living memorial and messages on accompanying stones or plaques shall be approved by the Superintendent and shall not be paid for through district funds. Other types of permanent memorials may be approved by the Superintendent instead of a living memorial. The family shall be consulted at the time of any request. Permanent memorials, regardless of the form, shall be limited to one per loss.

Memorial activities for deceased students or staff expressed at school shall be coordinated and approved through the Crisis Response Team (CRT), as well as building administration. The CRT will assist families and students in selecting memorial activities that are appropriate for school and assist students and staff with healthy bereavement. Building administration, in consultation with the Superintendent and CRT, shall exercise discretion in determining which activities best meet the overall needs of students, staff, parents and the community. Examples of such activities include yearbook recognition, graduation recognition, and moment of silence recognition. The Superintendent, in consultation with the CRT, has discretion to consider memorial events, such as a vigil, that utilize district facilities when the death of a student or staff member has a significant impact on a majority of students, staff and community.

Temporary memorials, such as floral arrangements and photo displays, shall remain in place at the discretion of the Superintendent, for a period of time not to exceed two weeks after the death occurred. Such memorials shall then be given to the family by designated district officials, when practicable. Temporary memorials shall not alter district owned property.

The District reserves the right to establish design parameters so that all permanent memorials blend with the architecture or setting of the facility, and/or blend with existing memorials.

Policy adopted:

SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Suffield, Connecticut

## Series 5000 – Students

### I. Elementary and Secondary

### B. Progress Reports

### (8) Student Records; Confidentiality

### (a) Health/Medical Records

When applicable, District schools will comply with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) to maintain the privacy of protected health information that it receives, obtains, transmits or sends. The Board of Education designates the Superintendent or his/her designee as its HIPAA Privacy Officer.

Student education records, including personally identifiable health information, maintained by the District is subject to and protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Both the United States Department of Health and Human Services and the United States Department of Education Family Policy Compliance Office have stated that student records under FERPA are not subject to HIPAA. Therefore, District schools will comply with FERPA's confidentiality provisions rather than HIPAA's.

The District will seek Medicaid eligibility information to determine if services to a student may be billed. Bills will be processed electronically for Medicaid reimbursement for qualified services to eligible special education students. The District will comply with HIPAA's electronic transactions requirements. Procedures and safeguards will be developed to protect the privacy of health information and prevent wrongful user and disclosure. At a minimum, the policy and procedure for student records will comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) with assurances that the District has obtained authorization from the parent or adult student prior to the release of protected health information for the purpose of Medicaid billing. Individuals involved in the Medicaid billing process for the District shall be trained on the privacy procedures. Discipline shall be imposed, up to and including discharge, for staff that wrongfully uses or discloses protected health information.

(cf. 5125 - Student Records; Confidentiality)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
1- 19(b)(11) Access to public records. Exempt records.
10- 15b Access of parent or guardians to student's records.
10- 154a Professional communications between teacher or nurse & student.
10- 209 Records not to be public
46b-56 (e) Access to Records of Minors.
Connecticut Public Records Administration Schedule V Disposition of Education Records (Revised 1983).

Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (section 438 of the General Education Provisions Act, as amended, added by section 513 of P.L. 93 568, codified at 20 U.S.C.1232g.).
Dept. of Educ. 34 C.F.R. Part 99 (May 9, 1980 45 FR 30802) regs. implementing FERPA enacted as part of 438 of General Educ. provisions act (20 U.S.C. 1232g) parent and student privacy and other rights with respect to educational records, as amended 11/21/96.
USA Patriot Act of 2001, PL 107-56, 115 Stat. 272, Sec 507, 18 U.S.C. §2332b(g)(5)(B) and 2331
42 U.S.C. 1320d-1320d-8, P.L. 104-191, Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA)
65 Fed. Reg. 50312-50372
65 Fed. Reg. 92462-82829
63 Fed. Reg. 43242-43280
67 Fed. Reg. 53182-53273

Policy adopted:

SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Suffield, Connecticut

## Series 5000 - Students

### 1. Elementary and Secondary

### C. Activities

### (1) Conduct

### (j) Drugs, Tobacco, Alcohol

Pursuant to the goal of the Board to maintain a drug, tobacco and alcohol-free school district, schools shall take positive action through education, counseling, parental involvement, and medical and police referral in handling incidents in the schools involving possession, sale, and/or use of behavior affecting substances. These substances shall include, but not be limited to, alcohol and controlled substances as defined in the Penal Code of the State of Connecticut.

Alcohol, tobacco, stimulants, and street drugs are addressed by this policy.

Possessing, using, or transmitting any substance which is represented to be, or looks like, a narcotic drug, hallucinogenic drug, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, alcoholic beverage, stimulant, depressant, or intoxicant of any kind, including such substances that contain chemicals which produce the same effect of illegal substances including, but not limited to, Spice, K2 and bath salts are addressed by this policy.

**Definitions**

**Drugs** are defined as any substance other than food or water that is intended to be taken or administered (ingested, injected, applied, implanted, inhaled, etc.) for the purpose of altering, sustaining, or controlling the recipient's physical, mental, or emotional state. Drugs may include, but not be limited to, alcoholic beverages; controlled substances such as marijuana, hallucinogens, cocaine, barbiturates, amphetamines and narcotics; and non-authorized prescription drugs.

**Controlled substances**, for purposes of this policy shall include all controlled substances prohibited by federal and state law, look-alike drugs, alcoholic beverages, anabolic steroids, drug paraphernalia, any volatile solvents or inhalants, such as, but not limited to, glue and aerosol products, and prescription or patent drugs, except those for which permission for use in school has been granted pursuant to Board policy.

**Under the influence**, for purposes of this policy shall include any consumption or ingestion of controlled substances by a student.

**Electronic nicotine delivery system** means an electronic device that may be used to simulate smoking in the delivery of nicotine or other substance to a person inhaling from the device, and

includes, but is not limited to, an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar, electronic cigarillo, electronic pipe or electronic hookah and any related device and any cartridge or other component of such device.

**Liquid nicotine container** means a container that holds a liquid substance containing nicotine that is sold, marketed or intended for use in an electronic nicotine delivery system or vapor product, except "liquid nicotine container" does not include such a container that is pre-filled and sealed by the manufacturer and not intended to be opened by the consumer.

**Vapor product** means any product that employs a heating element, power source, electronic circuit or other electronic, chemical or mechanical means, regardless of shape or size, to produce a vapor that may or may not include nicotine that is inhaled by the user of such product.

**Privacy Rights**

Personal privacy rights of students shall be protected as provided by law. School properties may be inspected by school authorities to maintain health and safety. Searches to locate drugs, narcotics, liquor, weapons, poisons, and missing properties are matters relating to health and safety and may be regarded as reasonable grounds for searches by school personnel. Privileged communication between a certified or paraprofessional employee and a student concerning drug abuse shall remain confidential except in cases where the employee is obtaining physical evidence of a controlled substance, and/or where there is an immediate threat to, or where students' health, safety, and welfare may be jeopardized.

**Illegal Activities**

Use, possession, sale or distribution of drugs, including prescription drugs, drug paraphernalia and/or alcoholic beverages in violation of state law or Board of Education policy is prohibited at any time on school premises or at any school-sponsored activity. If a student is under the influence of a drug or alcohol, or engaged in the illegal activity of possessing or selling drugs and/or alcohol, police will be notified, his/her parent(s)/guardian will be contacted, and he/she will be suspended from school and considered for expulsion under guidelines outlined in Policy #5114.

**Notification of Policy**

Annually, students will be notified through the student handbook, or through other means, of disciplinary sanctions for violation of this policy.

Principals shall include statements, appropriate to student maturity, in school handbooks and on District/school websites to the effect that:

1. the unlawful manufacture, distribution, sale, dispensing, possession or use of controlled substances, other illegal drugs, performance-enhancing substances, alcohol or tobacco, including electronic nicotine delivery systems and vapor products, is prohibited in school, on school grounds, on school transportation and at school sponsored activities;

2. compliance with the standards of conduct stated in the handbook is mandatory;
3. a violation of its provisions will subject students to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion and referral for prosecution;
4. CIAC controlled activities at the high school and middle school levels sponsored by the District/school are included in this policy and accompanying administrative regulations; and
5. CIAC may impose sanctions beyond those applied by the District for the use of performance-enhancing substances, as defined in this policy, by athletes.

**Disciplinary Action**

Students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action which includes, but is not limited to, suspension or expulsion, and/or a program recommended by administration. Student athletes who participate in CIAC-controlled activities and violate this policy shall also be declared ineligible for such activities in accordance with CIAC policy and regulation. Any disciplinary actions imposed will ensure that similar violations will be treated consistently. The Superintendent shall propose, and the Board of Education shall approve, procedures and regulations to ensure that any student violating this policy is subjected to disciplinary action, and that any disciplinary actions imposed for similar violations are treated consistently.

The following guidelines for reporting alleged violations are to be followed:

1. If an employee suspects student possession, use, abuse, distribution or sale of controlled substances, other illegal drugs, performance-enhancing drugs, alcohol, or tobacco/tobacco products the employee shall refer the matter to the Principal or his/her designee. The Principal or designee will notify the student's parent/guardian, recommend a specific assessment, as appropriate, and contact law enforcement personnel as appropriate.

2. If an employee obtains physical evidence of a controlled substance, other illegal drug, drug paraphernalia, performance-enhancing drugs, alcohol, tobacco products or tobacco paraphernalia from a student in school, on school grounds, on school provided transportation or at a school sponsored event, the employee shall turn the student and the controlled substance over to the school Principal or designee. The Principal will notify the student's parent/guardian, recommend a specified assessment as appropriate, notify law enforcement personnel and shall surrender possession of the controlled substance to the proper authorities within the time period required by state law.

**Drug-Free Awareness Program**

The Superintendent shall assure that the school District provides a drug-free awareness program for students.

**Drugs and Alcohol**

It is the policy of the Board to prevent and prohibit the use (except as duly authorized through the school nurse), possession, distribution or sale of any drug, drug paraphernalia, or alcohol by

any student at any time on school property, at school-sponsored events or on school-provided transportation. The District provides (1) a supportive environment for recovering chemically dependent students during and/or after their involvement in a treatment program for chemical dependency; and will provide (2) assistance to those students who are affected by drug/alcohol possession or use by others. Any student in District schools found to be using, selling, distributing, in possession of or under the influence of intoxicants, mood altering drugs or substances, or look-alike drugs, or in possession of any related drug paraphernalia during a school session, on school premises, or anywhere at a school-sponsored activity or trip, on school-provided transportation, or otherwise off school grounds when such student's conduct violates the substance abuse policy and is seriously disruptive of the educational process shall be subject to consequences as stated in the student handbook.

A breath alcohol tester is approved for use at events/activities such as dances and proms at the middle school and high school levels where, in the judgment of the school administrator, there exists reasonable suspicion that a student has consumed an alcoholic beverage and then, only under the following circumstances:

- The student denies to an administrator that he/she has consumed alcoholic beverages and wishes to establish his/her innocence. Should the student register a positive reading on the breath alcohol tester, consequences will be administered as outlined in the discipline/behavior regulations in the Student Handbook.
- The student denies to an administrator that he/she has consumed alcoholic beverages and elects not to utilize the breath alcohol tester to establish his/her innocence. The judgment of the administrator will then be utilized to determine if the student has consumed an alcoholic beverage. In this instance, consequences will be administered as outlined in the discipline/behavior regulations in the Student Handbook.

**Inhalant Abuse**

In addition to the prohibitions pertaining to alcohol, drugs and tobacco contained in this policy, no student shall inhale, ingest, apply, use or possess an abusable glue, aerosol paint or substance containing a volatile chemical with intent to inhale, ingest, apply or use any of these in a manner:

1. Contrary to directions for use, cautions or warnings appearing on a label of a container of the glue, paint aerosol or substance; and
2. Designed to affect the central nervous system, create or induce a condition of intoxication, hallucination or elation, or change, distort, or disturb the person's eyesight, thinking process, balance or coordination.

For purposes of this policy, inhalants are defined as follows, but not limited to:

Nitrous Oxide - Laughing Gas, Whippets, C02 Cartridge
Amyl Nitrite - "Locker Room," "Rush," "Poppers," "Snappers"
Butyl Nitrite - "Bullet," "Climax"
Chlorohydrocarbons - Aerosol Paint Cans, Cleaning Fluids
Hydrocarbons - Aerosol Propellants, Gasoline, Glue, Butane

Further, no student, 18 years of age or older, shall intentionally, knowingly or recklessly deliver or sell potentially abusable inhalant materials as listed above to a minor student.

No student shall intentionally use, or possess with intent to use, inhalant paraphernalia to inhale, ingest, or otherwise introduce into the body an abusable glue, aerosol paint or other substance that contains a volatile chemical.

Any student in District schools found to be in possession of, using, distributing, or selling potentially abusable inhalant materials shall be subject to disciplinary action as outlined in this policy, up to and including suspension and a recommendation for expulsion. Violators of this policy may also be required to complete an appropriate rehabilitation program. The Superintendent shall propose and the Board shall approve procedures and regulations to ensure that any student violating this policy is subjected to disciplinary action, and that any disciplinary actions imposed for similar violations are treated consistently.

The Board shall incorporate into the curriculum at all levels education pertaining to potential inhalant abuse which is appropriate for students given their age, maturity, and grade level. Inhalant abuse educational programs/information for parents/guardians will be offered in a manner convenient to parents/guardians.

**Performance-Enhancing Drugs (including food supplement)**

In addition to the prohibition pertaining to alcohol, drugs, tobacco and inhalants, the Board prohibits the use, possession, distribution or sale of performance-enhancing drugs, including anabolic steroids and food supplements, including Creatine, by students involved in school-related athletics or any co-curricular or extracurricular school activity/program, other than use for a valid medical purpose as documented by a physician. Bodybuilding and enhancement of athletic ability and performance are not considered valid medical purposes.

School personnel and coaches will not dispense any drugs, medication or food supplements except as in compliance with Connecticut State law, District policy and as prescribed by a student's physician, dentist, physician assistant or advanced practice registered nurse.

Students shall be made aware of the dangers of steroid abuse and that such abuse, unauthorized possession, purchase, or sale will subject them to disciplinary action and CIAC sanctions.

Students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action. The Superintendent shall propose, and the Board of Education shall approve, procedures and regulations to ensure that any student violating this section is subjected to disciplinary action, and that any disciplinary actions imposed for similar violations are treated consistently.

It is the expectation of the Board that District schools, as members of the CIAC require all athletes playing in CIAC-controlled sports to be chemical free.

**Tobacco/E-Cigarette Use by Students**

There shall be no smoking or any other unauthorized use or possession of tobacco, tobacco products, including chewing tobacco or tobacco paraphernalia, and electronic nicotine delivery systems or vapor products by students in any school building or school vehicle at any time or on any school grounds during the school day, or at any time when the student is subject to the supervision of designated school personnel, such as when the student is at any school function, extracurricular event, field trip, or school related activity including work-study programs. An ongoing program of student support and counseling will be offered to provide support for students who wish to break the smoking habit.

Tobacco includes, but is not limited to cigarettes, cigars, snuff, smoking tobacco, smokeless tobacco, nicotine, nicotine-delivering systems or vapor product, chemicals, or devices that produce the same flavor or physical effect of nicotine substances; and any other tobacco or nicotine innovations.

Students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action. The Superintendent shall propose and the Board of Education shall approve procedures and regulations to ensure that any student violating this policy is subjected to disciplinary action, and that any disciplinary actions imposed for similar actions are treated consistently.

**Medical Marijuana**

The conditions which follow are applicable to a District student who holds a certificate authorizing the palliative use of marijuana issued by the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) for the medical use of marijuana as set out in P.A. 12-55, "An Act Concerning the Palliative Use of Marijuana" and as amended by P.A. 16-23.

The District will not refuse to enroll a student or otherwise penalize a student for being a medical marijuana certificate holder unless failure to do so would cause the school to lose a monetary or licensing benefit under federal law or regulations.

A student medical marijuana certificate holder is subject to, without bias, the same code of conduct and disciplinary standards applicable to all students attending District schools. A student medical marijuana certificate holder shall not:

- Undertake any task under the influence of marijuana that would constitute negligence;
- Possess or engage in the medical use of marijuana on a school bus or on the grounds of any preschool, elementary or secondary school;
- Utilize marijuana on any form of public transportation or in any public place;
- Operate, navigate, or be in actual physical control of any motor vehicle while under the influence of marijuana, except that a qualifying certified marijuana user for medical purposes shall not be considered to be under the influence of marijuana solely because of the presence of metabolites or components of marijuana that appear in insufficient concentration to cause impairment;
- Use marijuana in any manner not authorized by P.A. 12-55 as amended by P.A. 16-23; or

- Offer to give, sell, or dispense medical marijuana to another student or other individual on school property, in school-provided vehicles, at school events, or when functioning as a representative of the school.

If District officials have reasonable belief that a student may be under the influence, in possession of, or distributing medical marijuana, in a manner not authorized by the medical marijuana statute, law enforcement authorities will be informed.

A student who violates any portion of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action and applicable criminal prosecution.

(cf. 5114 - Suspension/Expulsion)
(cf. 5131 - Conduct)
(cf. 5131.8 - Out of School Grounds Misconduct)
(cf. 5144 - Discipline/Punishment)
(cf. 5145.12 - Search and Seizure)
(cf. 5145.121 - Vehicle Searches on School Grounds)
(cf. 5145.122 - Use of Dogs to Search School Property)
(cf. 6164.11 - Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

1-21b Smoking prohibited in certain places.
10-19 Teaching about alcohol, nicotine or tobacco, drugs and acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Training of personnel.
10-154a Professional communications between teacher or nurse and student. Surrender or physical evidence obtained from students.
10-220b Policy statement on drugs.
10-221(d) Boards of education to prescribe rules, policies and procedures re: sale or possession of alcohol or controlled drugs.
21a-240 Definitions dependency producing drugs.
21a -240(8) Definitions "Controlled Drugs," dependency producing drugs.
21a-240(9) Definitions "controlled substance."
21a-243 Regulation re: schedules of controlled substances.
21a-408 et. seq. Palliative Uses of Marijuana (as amended by P.A. 16-23)
53-198 Smoking in motor buses, railroad cars and school buses.
P.A. 11-73 An Act Regulating the Sale and Possession of Synthetic Marijuana and Salvia Divinorum.
P.A. 12-55 An Act Concerning the Palliative Use of Marijuana.
P.A. 16-23 An Act Concerning the Palliative Use of Marijuana
P.A. 14-76 An Act Concerning the Governor's Recommendations Regarding Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems and Youth Smoking Prevention.
P.A. 15-206 An Act Regulating Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems and Vapor Products
Federal Regulation 34 CFR Part 85 Drug-free Schools & Communities Act.
PL 114-95 Every Student Succeeds Act, Section 8573

Synthetic Drug Abuse Prevention Act of 2012. (part of s.3187, the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act)
New Jersey v. T.L.O, 469 U.S. 325 (1985).
Veronia School District 47J v. Acton, 515 U.S. 646. (1995)
Board of Education of Independent School District No 92 of Pottawatomie County v. Earls 01-332 U.S. (2002).

Policy adopted:

SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Suffield, Connecticut

## Series 5000 – Students

### 1. Elementary and Secondary

### D. Welfare

### (6) Physical Exercise and Discipline of Students

The Board recognizes that a positive approach toward exercise and physical activity is important to the health and well-being of students. All aspects of the school experience should encourage students to have a healthy attitude toward exercise and promote the life-long enjoyment of physical activity. Therefore, when school employees impose disciplinary consequences for student misconduct during the regular day, the following restrictions shall apply:

1. **Loss of Recess as Disciplinary Consequence**

   Except as provided below, school employees may NOT prevent a student from participating in recess or in other sustained opportunities for physical activity during classroom learning as a form of discipline. Recess and other physically active learning opportunities may include movement-oriented learning activities in the academic environment, physical activity breaks, and regularly scheduled school-wide routines and events that engage students in physical activity.

   Loss of recess or other physically active learning opportunities as a form of discipline may be permitted on a case-by-case basis if approved in writing by the building administration prior to the imposition of the discipline. Such approval may be granted for safety reasons, as a last resort before in-school suspension, or in extraordinary situations when alternative strategies to address student misconduct have been ineffective.

   This restriction shall not apply to students receiving in-school suspension.

2. **Physical Activity as Punishment**

   School employees may NOT require students enrolled in grades Pre-K-12 to engage in physical activity as a form of discipline during the school day.

3. **Wellness Instruction**

   School employees shall not prevent students from participating in physical exercise during wellness instruction as a form of discipline.

   This restriction does not apply to brief periods of respite/time-outs, referrals to the building administrator, or for safety reasons.

   At no time shall an entire class be prevented from participating in wellness instruction or physical exercise activity as a disciplinary consequence.

The Superintendent is authorized to develop guidelines to implement this policy.

Nothing in this policy shall prevent a school employee from acting in accordance with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) developed by the student's Planning and Placement Team (PPT).

For the purpose of this policy, "school employee" means a teacher, substitute teacher, school administrator, school superintendent, guidance counselor, school counselor, psychologist, social worker, nurse, physician, school paraprofessional or coach employed by the Board or working in a public elementary, middle or high school; or any other individual who, in the performance of his or her duties, has regular contact with students and who provides services to, or on behalf of students enrolled in a public elementary, middle or high school, pursuant to a contract with the Board.

Any employee who fails to comply with this policy may be subject to discipline, up to and including termination of employment. Any contracted individual who provides services to or on behalf of District students and who fails to comply with the requirements of this policy may be subject to having his/her contract for services suspended by the District.

(cf. 6142.10 - Health Education Program)
(cf. 6142.101 - Wellness)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221o Lunch periods. Recess (as amended by P.A. 12-116, An Act Concerning Educational Reform, and P.A. 13-173, An Act Concerning Childhood Obesity and Physical Exercise in Schools)

10-221u Boards to adopt policies addressing the use of physical activity as discipline. (as amended by PA 18-15)

Policy adopted:

SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Suffield, CT

# Series 6000 – Instruction

## 1. Elementary and Secondary

## D. Curriculum

### (6) Graduation Requirements

Graduation from our public schools implies (1) that students have satisfactorily completed the prescribed courses of study for the grade levels in accordance with their respective abilities to achieve, (2) that they have satisfactorily passed any examinations and satisfactorily demonstrated the district's performance standards, assessed in part by the statewide mastery examinations, established by the faculty and approved by the Board of Education, and (3) that they have fulfilled the legally mandated number and distribution of credits.

The school district may not require achievement of a satisfactory score on the statewide proficiency examination or statewide mastery examination, or any subsequent retest on a component of such examinations as the sole criterion of promotion or graduation.

Graduation shall not be held until 180 days and 900 hours of actual school work are completed. The adopted school calendar may be modified after April 1 in any school year to accommodate a graduation date in conformity with applicable statute.

The following credits are necessary:

**Students graduating in years 2020-2022**

In order to graduate and be granted a diploma, students must satisfactorily complete a minimum of 24 credit hours, including not fewer than:

**9 Credits in Humanities:**

- Four (4) credits in English
- Three (3) credits in Social Studies, including at least one (1) credit in United States\American History and one (1) credit in American Government and Civics
- One (1) credit in Vocational/Fine Arts
- One (1) credit in a Humanities elective

**8 Credits in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics**

- Four (4) credits in Math - including Algebra I, Geometry, and either Algebra II or Statistics
- Three (3) credits in Science
- One (1) credit in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics elective

**2 Credits in Career and Life Skills, including not fewer than:**

- One (1) credit in Physical Education
- One-half (1/2) credit in Life Education
- One-half (1/2) credit in Personal Finance or Economics

**1 Credit in World Languages**

**4.0 Credits in Additional Electives**

## Students graduating in the year 2023 and beyond

In order to graduate and be granted a diploma, students must satisfactorily complete a minimum of 25 credit hours, including not fewer than:

**9 Credits in Humanities, including:**

- Four (4) credits in English
- Three (3) credits in Social Studies, including one (1) credit in Civics
- One (1) credit in the Arts
- One (1) credit identified as a Humanities elective in the SHS Program of Studies

**9 Credits in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, including:**

- Four (4) credits in Math
- Three (3) credits in Science
- Two (2) credits identified as a STEM elective in the SHS Program of Studies

**2 Credits in Career and Life Skills, including:**

- One (1) credit in Physical Education
- One (1) credit in Life Education (Health)

**1 Credit in World Languages**

**1 Credit in Mastery-Based Diploma Assessment**

**3 Credits in Additional Electives**

Beginning with the class of 2023 and beyond, credits will not be awarded for any courses completed during middle school. If physical education is not taken because of medical excuse, another course may be substituted.

In addition, also beginning with the graduating class of 2023, the Board of Education will provide adequate student support and remedial services for students beginning in grade seven (2017-2018 school year). Such student support and remedial services shall provide alternate means for a student to complete any of the high school graduation requirements, previously listed, if such student is unable to satisfactorily complete any of the required courses or exams. Such student support and remedial services shall include, but not be limited to, (1) allowing students to retake courses in summer school or through online courses; (2) allowing students to enroll in a class offered at a constituent unit of the state system of higher education; (3) allowing students who received a failing score, as determined by the Commissioner of Education, on an end of the school year exam to take an alternate form of the exam; and (4) allowing those students whose individualized education plans state that such students are eligible for an alternate assessment to demonstrate competency through success on an alternate assessment.

All credits earned toward meeting any of the graduation requirements through the successful completion of online courses must fulfill the requirements established in policy #6172.6, "Virtual/Online Learning."

The District shall create a student success plan for each enrolled student, beginning in grade six. Such plan shall include a students' career and academic choices in grades six to 12, inclusive.

**Credits_____**
Per statute (C.G.S. 221a(f)) the determination of eligible credits is at the discretion of the Board of Education, provided the primary focus of the curriculum of eligible credits corresponds directly to the subject matter of the specified course requirements. The Board may permit a student to graduate during a period of expulsion if the Board determines the student has satisfactorily completed the necessary credits. The graduation requirements shall apply to any student requiring special education except when the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) determines the requirement not to be appropriate.

A credit shall consist of not less than the equivalent of a 40 minute class period for each school day of a school year, and one-half credit is given for courses that compile work in one semester, except for a credit or part of a credit toward high school graduation earned (1) at an institution accredited by the Board of Regents for Higher Education or State Board of Education or regionally accredited, (2) through online course work, or (3) for the mastery-based diploma assessment.

Only courses taken in grades nine through 12, inclusive, and that are in accordance with the statewide subject matter content standards, adopted by the State Board of Education shall satisfy the graduation requirements.

**Academic Advancement Program**

The Board of Education permits students in grades 11 and 12 to substitute (1) achievement of a passing score on an existing nationally recognized examination as determined, by the State Department of Education, or series of examinations approved by the State Board of Education, (2) a cumulative grade point average determined by the State Board of Education and (3) at least three letters of recommendation from school professionals (defined in 10-66dd), for the required high school graduation requirement. The State Board of Education will issue an Academic Advancement Program Certificate to any student successfully completing such program. The Academic Advancement Program Certificate shall be considered in the same manner as a high school diploma for purposes of determining eligibility of a student for enrollment at a Connecticut public institution of higher education.

The Board of Education shall permit a student to graduate from high school upon the successful completion of the above described academic advancement program.

**Awards of High School Diplomas**
Students who complete all graduation requirements shall receive a diploma at commencement. Individuals also may satisfy graduation requirements by the satisfactory completion of the following:

1. Successful completion of a summer course or summer courses comparable (as determined by the principal) to the subject(s) in which the student was deficient.
2. Honorable discharge from the United States Armed Forces after a minimum of 90 days of active service during World War II,the Korean hostilities, or the Vietnam Era for individuals who withdrew from school to join the Armed Forces and did not receive a diploma as a consequence of such service.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221a High school graduation requirements. (As amended by P.A. 00-124, An Act Concerning High School Diplomas and Veterans of World War II, P.A. 00-156, An Act Requiring A Civics Course for High School Graduation, P.A. 08-138, An Act Concerning High School Credit for Private World Language Courses and Other Subject Areas, P.A. 10-111, An Act Concerning

Education Reform in Connecticut, P.A. 11-135, An Act Concerning Implementation Dates for Secondary School Reform, P.A. 13-57, An Act Concerning Honorary Diplomas for Vietnam Veterans, P.A. 13-122, An Act Concerning Minor Revisions to the Education Statutes, P.A. 13-247, Budget Implementer Bill, P.A. 15-237, An Act Concerning High School Graduation and P.A. 16-4(SS), section 310.)

10-233(a) Promotion and graduation policies. (as amended by P.A. 01-166)
P.A. 13-108 An Act Unleashing Innovation in Connecticut Schools.
P.A. 13-247 An Act Implementing Provisions of the State Budget.
P.A. 15-237 An Act Concerning High School Graduation.

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SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Suffield, Connecticut